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S E C R E T SANAA 002707

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 10/16/2014

TAGS: ASEC AMGT PREL PTER EAC

SUBJECT: SANAA EAC MEETING - OCTOBER 17, 2004

Classified By: RSO Tim Laas, for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

11. (S/NF) Begin summary: The Chief of Mission (COM) convened an EAC meeting on October 17, to address security concerns as post moves closer to the U.S. election date and enters Ramadan, raising the possibility of major attacks. COM stated there was currently no information that there will be attacks in Sanaa but the holy month of Ramadan combined with the lead up to U.S. elections made caution warranted. COM stated it was essential that post employees inform the RSO if they planned large gatherings during Ramadan, especially non-official social events. EAC discussed security concerns regarding upcoming Marine Ball at post and a planned Halloween party at post employee's residence. RSO advised EAC to consider the merits of post's policy placing the local Russian Club off limits to embassy personnel. Key offices and personnel represented at the meeting included: COM, A/DCM, POL/ECON, CONS, MO, RSO, POL/MIL, OMC, DAO, MED, LEGATT and IMO. End summary.

12. (SBU) The EAC began with a discussion regarding the upcoming Marine Ball to be held at post in November. COM and RSO agreed that current security plans are sufficient to support having the Marine Ball on the embassy compound, provided the local Ministry of Interior complies with RSO request to strengthen the embassy perimeter and to control vehicular access surrounding the embassy grounds. RSO advised EAC that post is in close contact with host government regarding supplemental security for the Marine Ball.

13. (SBU) RSO advised EAC that a Halloween party was being planned by an embassy employee with a potential list of over a hundred guests. RSO stated that access control at the residence would be difficult to manage and the party would present a good target during Ramadon. A German expatriate recently hosted a party at a private residence with a large contingent of western guests and security/access control was not sufficient in the RSO's view. EAC determined that currently it did not appear to be a good time to host such a party and it was cancelled.

14. (SBU) RSO asked the EAC to examine the merits of post's policy banning embassy personnel from visiting a local Russian club in Sanaa. It was noted that, unlike other social clubs and hotels in the area, the Russian Club is located inside "Tourist City" compound with poor access control. The club's high number of expatriate patrons combined with alcohol and a perception of improprieties between men and women highlight security concerns for the club. COM did not desire to officially ban embassy personnel from frequenting this establishment but recommended advising personnel to heighten their awareness regarding the security of public places to include the Russian club. EAC members agreed with this assessment.

15. (SBU) At the conclusion of the EAC, COM reminded personnel to keep the RSO informed regarding any plans to have large gatherings at local restaurants, clubs, etc. COM asked CONS to work with RSO in developing a warden message to be released to the community regarding the increased potential threat to westerners during the month of Ramadon in advance of the U.S. elections.

KRAJESKI